



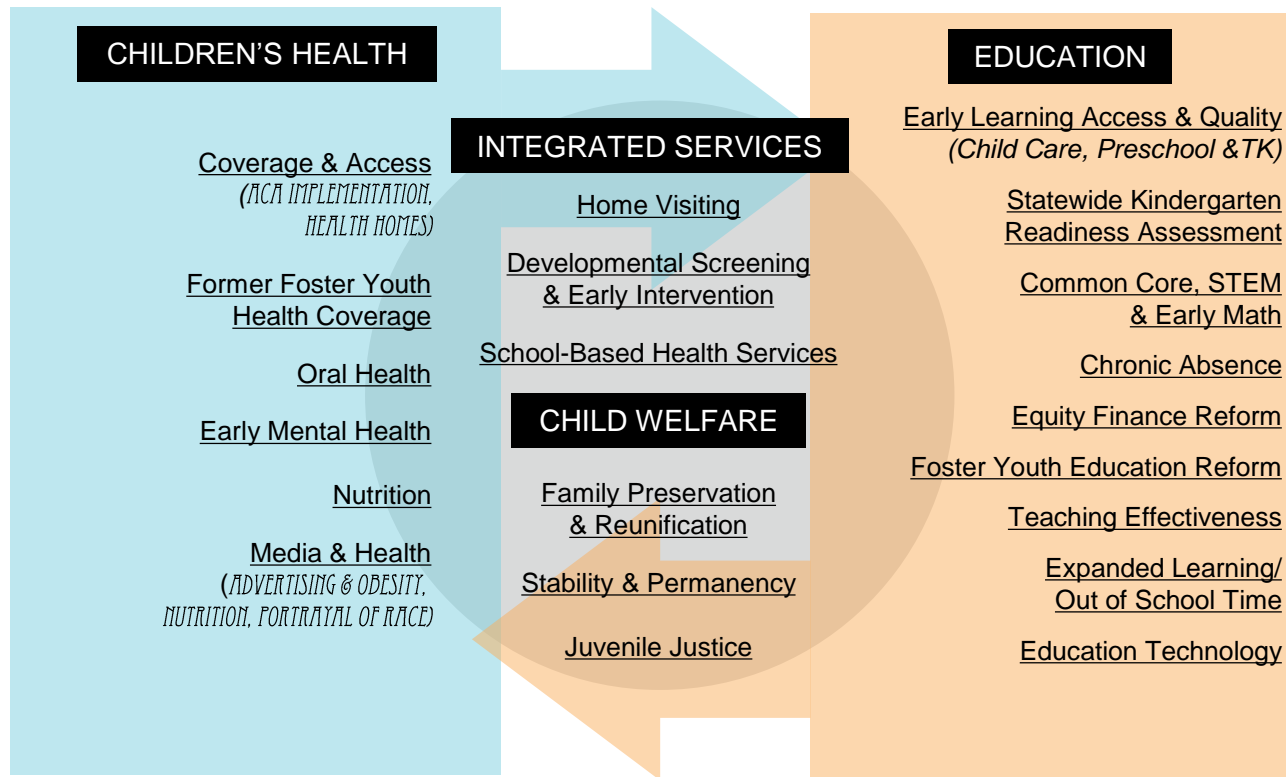
Medi-Cal Covers Over Half of the State's Kids

CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

POLICY INSIGHTS 2015

MARCH 4, 2015

Children Now's Current Issue Coverage

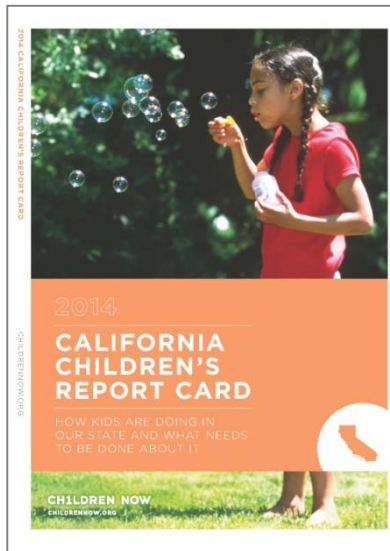


Research

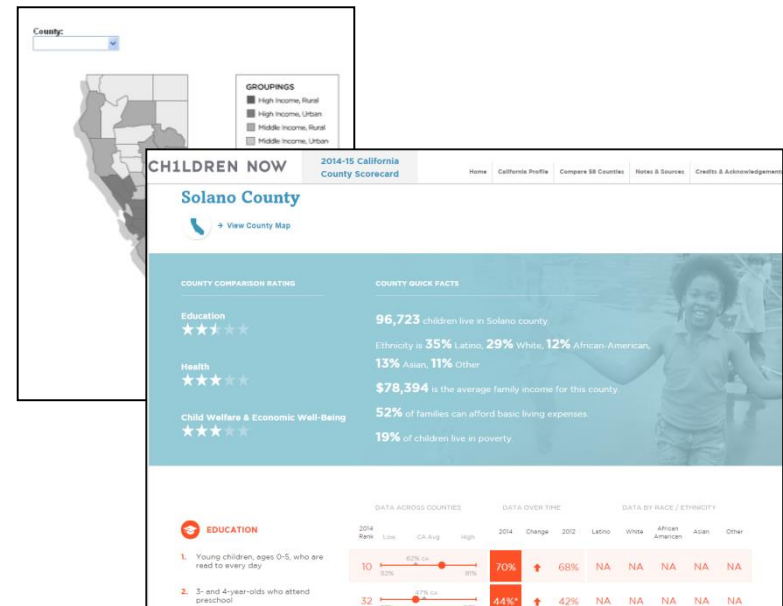
Spotlights children's needs statewide

- Key publications provide significant annual coverage of individual issues:
 - + EARLY LEARNING, K-12 EDUCATION, FOSTER CARE, HEALTH CARE ETC.
 - + HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS
 - + UNDERSCORE REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

STATE-LEVEL: THE CALIFORNIA REPORT CARD

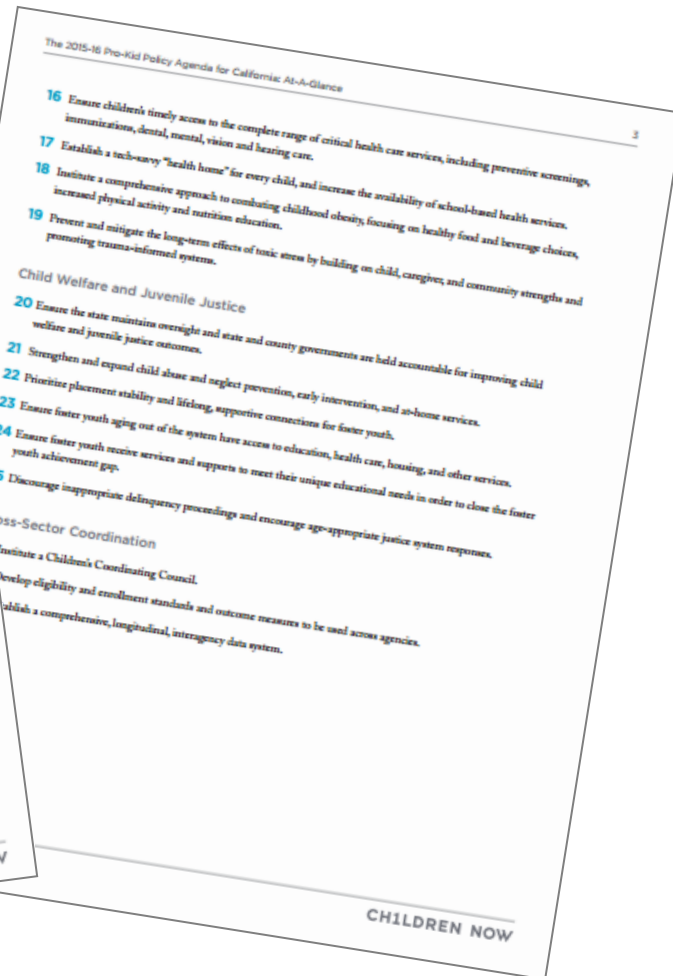
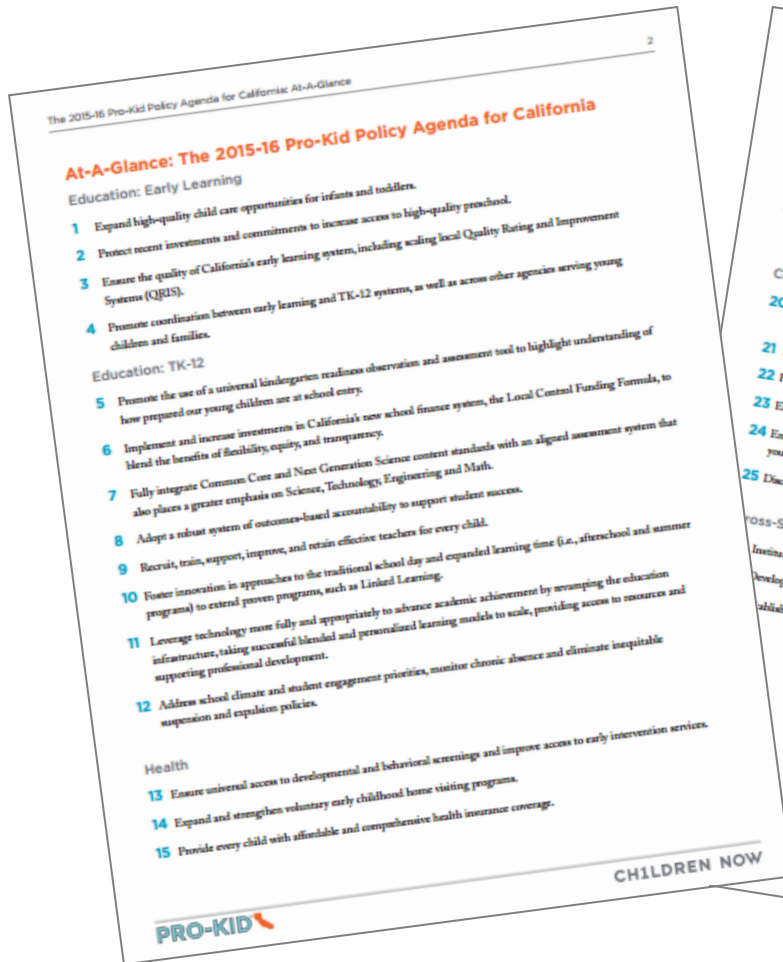


COUNTY-LEVEL: THE CALIFORNIA COUNTY SCORECARD



Policy

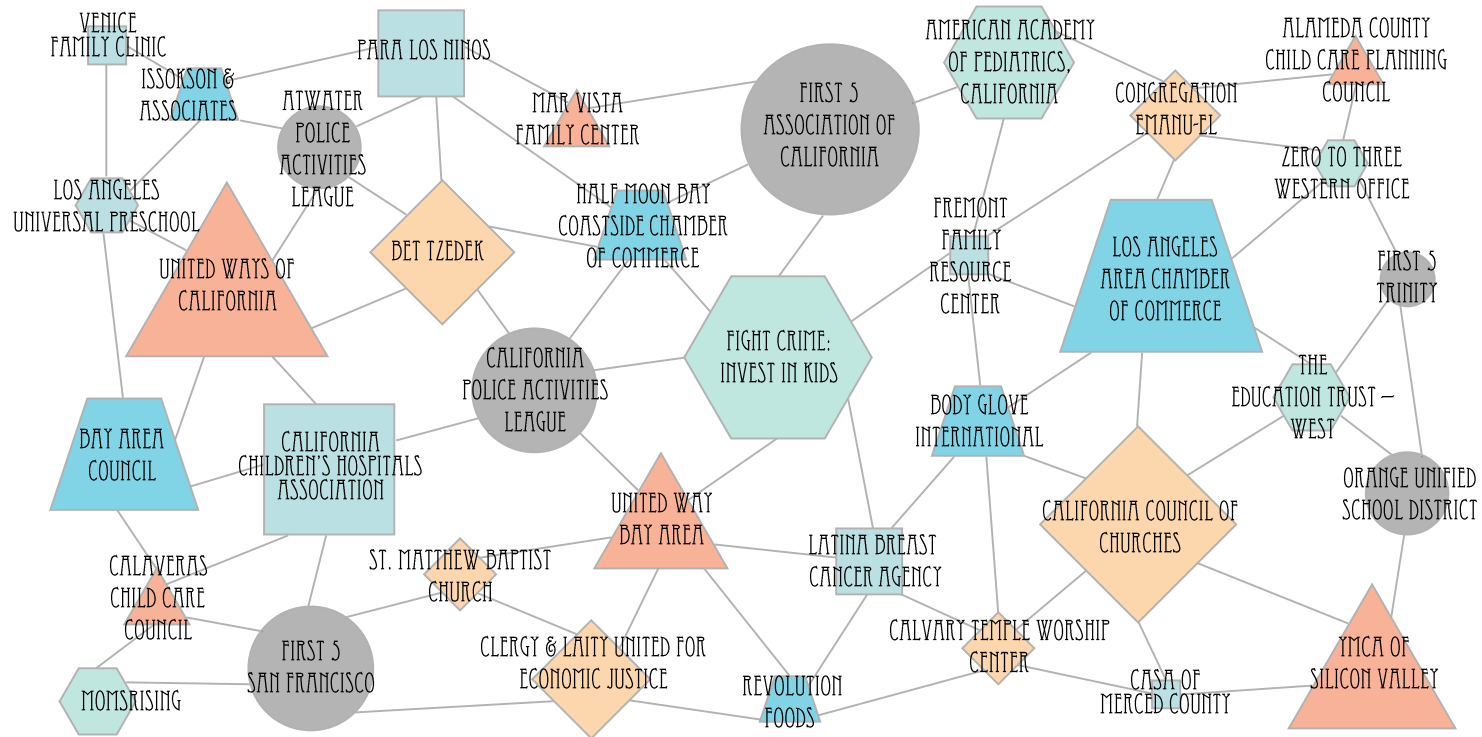
The Pro-Kid Agenda -- A guide to the top policy priorities



Advocacy

Giving kids punch -- The Children's Movement of California

Over 1,000 organizations have joined the Movement already, including:



Top priorities for kids in Medi-Cal

1. Increased opportunities to analyze & address children's unique needs
2. Home visiting
3. Developmental & behavioral screenings
4. Vaccinations
5. Coverage for former foster youth
6. Implementing behavioral health treatment for children with autism spectrum disorders

Over half of California's kids are enrolled in Medi-Cal



4,491,829

As of July 2012 nearly 4.5 million children under 18 were enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. During 2013, all children in the separate Healthy Families Program were transferred into the consolidated Medi-Cal program¹.

+

559,700

Almost 560,000 children (ages 0-18) were enrolled in Medi-Cal during the Covered California open enrollment period between October 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. This is 29%² of the total number enrolled in Medi-Cal via the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System.³

=

5,051,529

Adding these two numbers together, we estimate there are at least 5 million children enrolled in Medi-Cal as of mid-2014.

÷

9,161,473

There were approximately 9.16 million children under 18 in California in 2013, or 23.9% of the total 38,332,521 Californians.⁴

=



Opportunities to analyze & address kids' needs

- + Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel
- + DATA! Need more child-specific data, for example a pediatric version of the Medi-Cal managed care dashboard
- + Transfer between Medi-Cal & Covered California
- + Unique access and reimbursement rate impacts

Voluntary home visiting

Only a small number of California's young children have received home visits



65%

have 1 or more risk factors and would likely benefit from home visiting

.....
have received 1 or more home visits

11%



Based on 1.4 million children age 0 - 3 in California

Risk factors include poverty, health, school, and developmental problems

Developmental & behavioral screenings

- + Pediatricians recommend that infants and toddlers receive a developmental & behavioral screening at least **3 times before a child's 3rd birthday** (Bright Futures guidelines)
- + Developmental & behavioral screenings are a proven way to identify children in need and connect them with early intervention services
- + Only 29% of California's infants/toddlers receive recommended screenings, including only 10% of Black, non-Hispanic infants/toddlers (2011-12)
- + Need Medi-Cal-specific data on developmental & behavioral screenings
- + Need better linkages between the health care system and early intervention, education, child care, child welfare, social services sectors at the local level

Vaccinations

- + Recent California-based outbreaks of whooping cough and measles have heightened the public health risks of infectious disease and the consequences of lowered herd immunity – an issue complicated by personal belief exemptions
- + Medi-Cal and the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program are key sites and sources of vaccination delivery
- + DHCS identified improvements in 2-year-old immunization rates as a priority in their draft 2014 Quality Strategy report, based on HEDIS scores.
- + Supports and incentives will need to be aligned for providers and plans throughout the layers of contracting to improve and sustain immunization rates in practices

Enrolling former foster youth in Medi-Cal

- + Covered til 26 outreach campaign to enroll former foster youth in Medi-Cal
- + Former foster youth must enroll at county offices because CalHEERS does not yet correctly assign them to Medi-Cal

PRO-KID Web Version | Join | Campaigns | Facebook | Twitter | Forward

Former Foster Youth in CA are now eligible for FREE Medi-Cal coverage until age 26

[Go to Coveredtil26.org to find out all you need to know.](#)

REGISTER NOW >

NEW WEBINAR

Medi-Cal coverage until age 26 for former foster youth

Monday, February 27, 11:00 - 12:00PM PST

Presented by:
CHILDREN NOW
youth law center

45 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute Q & A session.

Each year, over 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system in the U.S. Between 2,700 to 5,000 youth do so in California alone. These vulnerable youth too often lack adequate supports to make the transition to adulthood successfully. For example, they are much less likely than their peers to have health insurance, but tend to have more health care needs due to trauma experienced during childhood.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, youth who were in foster care at age 18 or older now qualify for free health care until they turn 26. Previously, Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth ended at age 21. The ACA's extension of coverage to age 26 fills a critical need for former foster youth who haven't had the same option as their peers to stay on a parent's insurance plan.

Most former foster youth don't know about this new and exciting opportunity.

Help us spread the word!

1. Tell everyone you know about [Coveredtil26.org](#). Children Now's new youth-focused website provides current information about Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth, including tips for youth on how to sign up and FAQs!
2. Download the [Coveredtil26 flyer](#) and [factsheet](#). Print and hand out, post in your office and email to others.
3. Request a training presentation. For more information contact: [Palma Morales](#) or [Jessica Masopie](#)

Visit **COVERED til 26**

Tell Others
About Coveredtil26.org >>

THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Implementing behavioral health treatment coverage for children in Medi-Cal

- + Behavioral Health Treatment for children with autism spectrum disorder added as a covered benefit; State Plan Amendment submitted September 30, 2014
- + Major outstanding questions –
 - + Will rates be sufficient?
 - + Will Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE) will be required before any services are covered, even for kids younger than 3 years?

Medi-Cal Managed Care Beneficiaries Receiving BHT Services (9/15/14 – 1/10/15)

BHT Calls Received:	1623
Currently Receiving BHT services:	418
Referred for CDE:	627
Completed CDE:	324
Referred for Assessment:	643
Completed Assessment:	241

Resources

Kelly Hardy – Senior Managing Director, Health
khardy@childrennow.org

Children Now
www.childrennow.org

Covered til 26
www.coveredtil26.org

Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel
www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-Cal_Childrens_Health_Advisory_Panel.aspx